

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

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Nature Parks launch “unique, genuine” RAP

RECONCILIATION

Last Wednesday the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) launched their fourth Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

RAPs aim to enable organisations to sustainably and strategically take action to advance reconciliation with First Nation's people.

The Nature Parks' latest Stretch RAP will guide the organisation's approach to reconciliation until 2027.

Catherine Basterfield, PINP CEO, said as land managers “we have responsibility caring for Bunurong country, so looking after that with Bunurong people's wishes in mind is really, really important to us.

“And I guess it goes further, being a big employer in the region and just looking after the broader First Nation's community is also a big feature in our Reconciliation Action Plan,” the CEO said.

Patrice Mahoney OAM, an Anaiwan woman who has been involved in PINP's journey towards reconciliation since 2011, said the latest RAP is “unique” because it's “genuine”.

“Other reconciliation plans I guess have an action, and it sounds great on paper and looks fantastic, but it's just a moment in time for that organisation. It's not necessarily embedded deeply within policies and procedures,” Patrice said.

“Whereas Nature Parks try to embed that Aboriginal land across all and everyday actions.



Last Wednesday the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) launched their fourth Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). From left: Catherine Basterfield, Kevin Love, Kate Adams, Patrice Mahoney OAM, Sally O'Neill, Geoff Westcott, Jane Jobe, Michelle Dickson, Dr Bev Munro.

“You can go to any of the (PINP managed) sites and see that you're acknowledged as First Peoples and see that they're managing land on behalf of us, not for us. There's a big difference in that.”

Allyship

Dr Bev Munro is a Wiradjuri woman, who has been involved with PINP's reconciliation journey since 2018.

Dr Munro made the distinction that reconciliation without allyship often amounts to little more than self-serving organisational virtue signalling.

“There's a lot of reconciliation programs that are focused on ‘we're white folk and we're going to do nice charitable things.’ I don't like that, that's just colonialism 101 to me,” Dr Munro said.

“(Being) allies goes much

further than trying to resolve a particular issue between two groups. Allies should be about supporting the aspirations of that other group and treating people as equals.”

Dr Munro said PINP's commitment to reconciliation and allyship has already had an impact on the First Nation's community in the Bass Coast region.

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- 1 free hard rubbish pick up per year
- Parking solutions for the Island that work
- Get a government to commit to lasting erosion measures

- Strongly advocate for projects that we actually need:
 - Prioritise the sporting precinct opposite the RSL
 - The aquatic centre
 - New football oval
 - Basketball courts
 - Complete existing bike tracks before starting any new ones
 - No bike track along the foreshore from Cowes to Ventnor; preserve the foreshore habitat

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Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

PHILLIP ISLAND
7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Wed/Oct2	Thu/Oct3	Fri/Oct4	Sat/Oct5	Sun/Oct6	Mon/Oct7	Tue/Oct8
SUNNY	SUNNY	SHOWERS	SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	MOSTLY SUNNY
9 17	9 21	14 20	11 17	12 19	10 15	10 13



Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary Outgoing President Lyn Wadeson cuts the ribbon to open the coffee cart at the Phillip Island Health Hub at Cowes, with barista Sue Gale.

Coffee cart for Health Hub

HEALTH Barista coffee and food options for Health Hub

The Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary has donated \$14,500 for the purchase of a coffee cart for the Hub, which means staff and members of the public can purchase beverages or a snack there.

Next to the coffee cart, in the Hub reception area, there is also a vending fridge with a variety of healthy drinks and food on offer.

Together, the cart and fridge provide a convenient selection of coffee and food options for patients, families and staff.

The coffee cart is currently open

9am-1pm, Monday-Wednesday.

Outgoing Auxiliary President Lyn Wadeson said the Auxiliary raised the funds through such fundraising as Woolamai Picnic Racing days, raffles and trivia nights.

"This coffee cart is a great way of supporting the hard-working staff at the Health Hub by giving them the chance to buy a quality coffee and enjoy some down-time during their busy days," she said.

"Consumers coming for appointments or to access the Urgent Care Centre will also have the chance to unwind with a cuppa while they wait.

"All this would not have been possible without the support our wonderful community has provided to our Auxiliary, and in turn Bass Coast Health.

We're so lucky to have a generous community that is so willing to support their public healthcare service."

BCH CEO Jan Child thanked the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary for their ongoing support.

"We're fortunate to have a dedicated group of lovely volunteers who provide so many entertaining events for our community, all in the name of supporting our health service," she said.

The Phillip Island Health Hub is located at 50-54 Church Street, Cowes, for appointments with BCH staff and specialists.

The Urgent Care Centre is open 24/7 for the treatment of minor illnesses and injuries. Always phone 000 for an ambulance during an emergency.

POLICE BRIEFS

Settlement Road graffiti

Police confirmed they are still investigating an incident which occurred on August 23, where a wall was graffitied at a commercial premises on Settlement Road in Cowes.

It is alleged the offence took place at 2.24am and two offenders graffitied the wall. Police have released footage to the Bass Coast Eye Watch Facebook page and are calling for community assistance to aid police in the investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at: www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/

Grampians Boulevard fire

Police have confirmed a fire that occurred around 11.30am on Grampians Boulevard, Cowes, last Friday, is not being treated as suspicious. It is believed the fire was caused by an accidental electrical fault.

The CFA were able to contain the fire to its point of origin in a garage, and stopped the fire spreading to the adjoining house.

The Phillip Island Fire Brigade said by the time crews arrived, they found the garage fully involved with fire beginning to penetrate into the house.

Approx 30 volunteer firefighters attended the fire, which comprised of four appliances from Phillip Island, and an appliance from San Remo, Kilcunda and Wonthaggi.

It took approximately 30 minutes to bring the house fire under control, which completely gutted the garage of the property with severe heat and smoke damage to the rest of the property.

Ambulance Victoria were present, and a male occupant of the house was airlifted to the Alfred Hospital suffering burns and possible smoke inhalation.

Long weekend driver behaviour

Police said they were "pleased" with driver behaviour on the island over the long weekend, with no collisions or issues of note.

"At the end of the day, that's what we want," a Victoria Police member said.

"People to come and have a good time, enjoy themselves and get home safely."

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Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) has long flagged the development of an eco-resort. In 2017 PINP purchased a 34.4 hectare farm adjacent to the Summerland Peninsula to create a natural buffer between farmland and the Summerland reserve area.

Nature Parks: no plans for resort, yet

PLANNING

Phillip Island Nature Parks have scotched rumours that they are considering progressing with an eco-resort development adjacent to the Penguin Parade.

Rumours circulated at the recent community meeting held to protest the Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism strategy (BURT), which if adopted could make way for rural land, especially along Phillip Island's south coast, to be rezoned for tourism development (see separate story).

PINP has long flagged development of an eco-resort, in 2017 purchasing a 34.4 hectare farm acreage adjacent to the penguin reserve to "create a natural buffer between farmland and the reserve area".

Last week a PINP spokesperson confirmed no progress had

been made on resort plans.

"No commercial opportunities have been explored to date, including for any type of accommodation or eco-resort," the spokesperson said.

"We are revisiting our Summerland Peninsula Master Plan in 2025, and will consider future opportunities for the Peninsula in consultation with the community, including the 34.4 hectares near Swan Lake."

In the early 2000s the community successfully fought against a \$300 million resort and golf course development on the island's south coast, adjoining the Phillip Island Circuit.

Bass Coast Shire councillors voted against plans and were joined by the National Trust, Conservation Society and members of the local community, who said the project would ruin a protected area of rugged coastline.



At the community meeting to discuss future planning policies, from left: farmer and speaker on the night Bill Cleeland, with council candidates David Rooks, Tim O'Brien and (far right) John Trigt, and PICS president (second from right) Greg Johnson.

Clear message sent to Planning Minister

PLANNING

Farmers and conservationists have voted for Bass Coast Shire Council to scrap a controversial planning policy they say will damage the environment and lead to overdevelopment outside town boundaries.

A community meeting in Cowes at the end of September saw about 60 people call on the shire to rescind the Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism strategy (BURT), which makes way for rural land – especially along Phillip Island's south coast – to be rezoned for tourism developments.

While BURT was passed by council in March 2023, farmers and conservationists were alarmed by its full impact after the Victorian Planning Minister intervened to approve the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven (rejecting a previous VCAT decision), citing BURT as "effectively identifying all of Phillip Island as being suitable for tourism uses".

At the meeting, organised by the Phillip Island Conservation Society, four speakers outlined their concerns before a motion was moved by Ventnor farmer Anne Davie, stating the "meeting rejects BURT's plan for large scale development on the land and coast of Phillip Island".

"We ask council to rescind this misguided strategy. Bass Coast needs a tourism plan which protects the island's farmland, coast and natural environment," the

motion stated, with two votes opposed and some abstentions.

Five council election candidates attended the meeting: David Rooks, Tim O'Brien, Darrell Silva, Tracey Bell, and John Trigt, with one speaker alerting candidates to "the dangers of this ill-conceived strategy" and urging a new council "to rescind BURT urgently before irreversible damage is done".

Farmers

Surf Beach farmer Bill Cleeland, who is the president of the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation, told the meeting farmers were not opposed to small scale development such as farm stays, but were concerned with large scale projects on farmland.

"Large scale development would adversely affect the agricultural operations of existing farmers," he said, adding farming on the island was a success story.

Bill said the overwhelming concern now was the Victorian Planning Minister could overturn any VCAT decision.

Newhaven farmer Rob Langford was one of two people to vote against the motion, saying there was not enough explanation of the details of BURT, and he believed the greater concern was the Planning Minister could "now veto and approve whatever development she wants".

Conservation

Speaker Linda Cuttriss could not

attend and so Rosie Westbrook spoke on her behalf, opposing BURT, stating it aimed to unlock restrictions in the planning scheme that currently limit tourism in the farming zone to small-scale operations directly linked with agricultural activities, such as farm stays and farm gate sales.

Rosie said BURT recommends special use zones be declared at Newhaven, Ventnor and Kitty Miller Bay for "medium to large scale developments where tourism would be the major activity", such as accommodation, conference centres, restaurants and golf courses.

"BURT is a short-sighted scheme that threatens to destroy Phillip Island's most valuable resources – the beautiful environment and outstanding scenic landscape – that visitors come to enjoy and that the community treasures so much," Rosie said.

PICS president Greg Johnson said a "small island arguably already over-developed" did not have enough redundant rural land to give up for tourism.

PICS vice president Terry Nott said he was very concerned by the precedent of the State Government citing BURT as "effectively identifying all of Phillip Island as being suitable for tourism use".

"Phillip Island's environment and landscape is what makes it so special. It is central to the visitor economy," Terry said.

"If BURT recommendations are adopted, this is all put at risk."

Parking sensor fail? Or just double-checking?

ROADS

They were heavily criticised when first rolled out, at a cost of more than \$377,000.

And now it turns out the parking sensors installed on parking bays in Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade in Cowes are being sidelined for a cheap piece of chalk.

Island Voice spokeswoman Linda Marston said last week that she was surprised to see a Bass Coast Shire Council parking officer walking up Thompson Avenue marking tyres with chalk, despite parking sensors having been underneath vehicles.

A shire spokesperson said that council parking inspectors use a combination of methods for car parking compliance,

including sensors and manual checks.

"The sensors on Thompson Avenue are operational, but occasionally, manual tyre marking is used as an additional measure or when sensors are undergoing maintenance," the spokesperson said.

"Last week, the tyre marking was part of our regular compliance approach to ensure effective monitoring."

Linda responded, asking if chalk was needed as an additional monitoring measure, or indeed to ensure effective monitoring, "why then did we spend about \$377,000 on sensors?"

"You can buy a lot of chalk for that money. And it doesn't need expensive maintenance," Linda said.

"If chalk is being used, then

are the numbers indicated on the parking availability displays (and app) inaccurate or meaningless at that time?"

"The provision of accurate information regarding available parking spots was the main reason for deploying parking sensors in the first place, according to the shire."

The "Bass Coast Parking" mobile app was launched at the end of 2022 to help Cowes' drivers find a park, in parallel to the controversial sensor parking installation: 375 in on-street bays on Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre; as well as 262 in Wonthaggi.

Electronic signs on Thompson Avenue and on Church and Chapel streets also alert drivers

to the direction of and distance to available car parking.

The council at the time said the "smart parking" technology would make it easier to find a park and provide council with visibility around space occupancy, including duration of stay, usage trends, peak usage, as well as reporting and data insights to use for future planning decisions.

The sensors came under heavy criticism from the community because they were introduced with no consultation, with many arguing they were not needed outside peak tourist season and would push parking into residential areas.

Paid parking

Meanwhile, The Age newspaper last week reported visitors to tourism towns in Victoria

will face parking charges for the first time in some locations as "councils consider ways to raise revenue from hordes of day trippers flocking to popular destinations".

Yarra Ranges Council will introduce a paid parking trial this year, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire will consider a plan to bring in a similar scheme after the coming council elections.

A previous trial at locations along the Mornington Peninsula was scrapped following a public backlash.

As reported in August, paid parking has been mooted as a possible solution to moderate increasing demand for car spaces, according to a background report to Bass Coast Shire Council's new transport strategy.



Council adopted the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan in 2023 with more than 35 projects in short, medium and long-term priorities across the next several decades.

Push grows for new oval, sports hub

COUNCIL

New councillors are on notice: The proposed new Cowes Sports and Recreation Hub on the corner of the Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road, is a top priority, with an oval first cab off the rank. As reported last week, development of the Sport and Recreation Hub was a major election issue at the ‘Meet the Candidates’ forum run by Island Voice.

At the September council meeting the Hub was also a hot topic during Community Question Time, with a focus now on next year’s BCS financial plan as a means of fast tracking the proposed sporting precinct project.

Cape Woolamai resident Graham Jolly asked what were the constraints stopping council from constructing a new sporting oval during 2025/26, on the land earmarked for the Sports Hub, under the adopted 2023 Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

Mr Jolly said he guessed an oval would cost up to \$5 million.

CEO Greg Box responded such a project would be guided by council’s adopted 10-year long term financial plan (LTFP) 2021-31.

“Currently, the actions identified in the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan, adopted in September 2023, are not included in the LTFP,” Mr Box said.

“The LTFP is scheduled for review in 2025.”

Funding?

Phillip Island resident Andrew Marston said the island had been “waiting years for a swimming pool” and our “football club desperately needs more ovals”.

“Dogs in Bass Coast have fewer safe exercise spaces than just about anywhere in Australia,” Mr Marston said.

“Council purchased 80 acres of land for recreation. When will you honour this commitment and rezone this land to facilitate progress?”

Mr Box responded saying rezoning of the site was not required for progress to occur.

“Rezoning is a medium-term action in the adopted master plan. It is anticipated that this process will occur in about 10 years.”

Mr Marston also asked what funding applications the shire had made to state and federal sources for the development of the sports hub.

“And if none, when will applications be made so that the community can use the land council has purchased for them?”

Mr Box said currently no funding applications had been submitted to any grant programs.

“Grant applications typically require a financial contribution from the council, and at this stage, the projects identified in the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan are not included in the council’s budget,” Mr Box said.

“Future funding is subject to review of council’s long term financial plan.”

Council candidate John Trigt said the Federal Government’s \$600 million Growing Regional Program was designed to fund pools and sporting ovals.

“Surf Coast shire announced construction of a pool for completion in 2026,” Mr Trigt said.

“Are our council officers working towards a grant submission for a pool or sporting ovals?”

Mr Box reiterated council contribution required for this program was not in the current budget.

Name?

Resident Melissa Dagg asked about the naming process for the Sports Hub, stating given part of the site was already named the Hilton Chadwick Reserve, “both land lots would automatically be the one reserve” under that name.

Mr Box said the council was not currently considering a naming process for the land.

Resident Philip Davy asked for details on the community consultation that saw the soon-to-be-implemented \$25 million Cowes street master plan become a priority project, which will see Thompson Avenue become a one-way thoroughfare and the loss of car parking spaces.

Mr Box said the Cowes streetscape master plan was adopted in 2022 and involved 3584 views on engage Bass Coast, three drop-in sessions with more than 100 people attending and extensive consultation with traders.



Residents are now queuing to have their roads considered for upgrades. After last year’s bruising Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay special charge scheme was abandoned, a new policy was introduced, which is proving to be popular.

Pick me: shire’s roads policy a winner

ROADS

For decades, Bass Coast Shire Council’s special charge scheme has been largely unpopular with residents on dirt roads, who have been reluctant to fork out large sums to add bitumen.

But now the shire seems to have hit on a winner.

After last year’s Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay Special Charge Scheme for 1000 properties was abandoned following a bruising two-year campaign, councillors earlier this year approved a revised Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement (URDI) policy, which allows large road upgrade projects to be broken into smaller ones and community-initiated road projects to be made easier to achieve.

In response, at the September council meeting, yet another group of residents have successfully lobbied to be placed on a growing road upgrades list.

Residents on Bay Road and Foreshore Road, Jam Jerrup, lodged a petition with 29 signatures requesting the shire reprioritise their road project.

“We understand that the project would be full funded by council and property owners adjacent to the road, and are

willing to financially contribute towards the project,” the petition stated.

Under the URDI policy, a minimum of 50 per cent of property owners in an area are required to be willing to contribute to an upgrade for it to be considered.

The latest petition has 55 per cent support from property owners, and councillors voted to start work with them “to investigate a preferred treatment option and potential costs to upgrade the road”.

Other recent successful petitions include several in Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, with nine resident petitions earlier this year also leading to three other new reprioritised projects: The Esplanade (from Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street); The Esplanade (from Zephyr Court to Sunderland Bay Road); and Links Street.

A public question by Mario Boffa at the council meeting asked whether councillors were given instructions not to attend or conduct community meetings with the Sunderland Bay Surf Beach residents during the period of the overall initial special charge scheme”.

Council CEO Greg Box replied “No”.

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Additional Council Meeting

Bass Coast Shire Council will be holding an additional Council Meeting on Wednesday, 9 October.

The meeting will commence at 11.30am in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi.

The agenda will be available on Council’s website on Thursday 4 October at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings.

Please note that neither October 2024 Council Meetings will have an opportunity for public questions due to our Election Period Policy.

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It was a joyous reopening of a new Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery last week, in the refurbished ex CFA building in Settlement Road. Members Aleta Groves (seated) Maureen Ellard and Pamela Doyle advise there is an amazing range of arts and craft available at very reasonable prices. More photos at pisra.com.au.

Community gallery finally open

ARTS

The Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery last week opened its new, permanent exhibition space at the renovated former CFA building on Settlement Road.

The opening on Wednesday saw the works of about 25 members exhibited, including paintings through to photography, as well as wood turning, textile art, jewellery, knitting, crochet, eco-dyeing, and basketry.

Gallery committee secretary Aleta Groves said the Creative Arts Station at 119 Settlement Road Cowes – alongside other groups such as Boomerang

Bags and PICES – was now open Thursday to Sunday 11am-3pm.

“As we are a community gallery we have the work of our members on display and for sale throughout the year, with all works handmade by our members,” Aleta said.

“Every member is a volunteer and the volunteers operate the gallery.”

Aleta said the reaction to the new space had been “amazing” and members were glad to finally find their “forever home”.

“When people see the before photos they can’t believe it is the same place.

“It was a fire station but now it’s a bright gallery we are very

proud of. We are delighted to finally be able to say the Phillip Island Gallery is back.”

The not-for-profit gallery was started in 1993 in Chapel Street and in 1997 Bass Coast Shire Council offered the gallery a space at the Cowes Cultural Centre where it stayed for 20 years until the centre was demolished.

For two years the gallery operated out of PICAL.

“In 2022 we found ourselves without a space to operate from with PICAL moving into their new facility,” Aleta said.

“In November of 2022 we closed our doors and all we could do was hope eventually we would have a new location.”



A local resident is frustrated at the lack of response from VicRoads, after reporting this low hanging branch on Phillip Island Road a month ago.

Tree branches a hazard

ROAD SAFETY

Local resident Jeff Williams said low hanging trees along Phillip Island Road are a safety hazard. And he’s tired of waiting on VicRoads to address the issue.

Jeff told the Advertiser he contacted VicRoads in August about a very low hanging branch near the Koala Conservation Reserve on Phillip Island Road.

VicRoads told him a contractor would attend to it, but Jeff is frustrated that nothing has been done.

“This low hanging branch originally extended right across the road and several metres of it have been broken off by some unfortunate higher vehicle,” Jeff explained.

He said last week, he saw a Lin-fox semi almost hit the branch.

“When travelling along the Tourist Road from the Koala Park to Cowes there are quite a few branches which are dead or hang low across the road.

“One has fallen on and damaged the entry to Cowes road sign.”

He said the response from VicRoads was “not good enough”.

A spokesperson for the Department of Transport and Planning said they encouraged members of the public to notify them of any hazards on the roads.

“To ensure the safety of all road users, our crews regularly inspect every kilometre of our road network. Our team will carry out further inspections on Phillip Island Road,” the spokesperson said.

To report road hazards, call 13 11 70.



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Workers were on hand to install the steel framework which was helicoptered in as part of the new boardwalk construction at the Penguin Parade.

Better view at Penguin Parade

TOURISM

An upgrade to the Penguin Parade, which includes a new accessible boardwalk and penguin viewing stands, has hit a major milestone

Surefoot footings and steel framework have been installed as part of the project, which has been funded by a \$5 million grant from the Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

As part of the construction, steel framework was lifted by helicopter into location, with a skilled pilot guiding the beams and frames into position – protecting the sensitive natural habitat from heavy construction vehicles.

Other components of the boardwalk were carried in by hand and installed one-by-one to ensure the little penguins and their habitat were protected.

All works have been undertaken with qualified wildlife officers on-site. This ensures any penguins that may be present during construction are monitored and uninterrupted by the works.

“Phillip Island is one of Australia’s must-see tourist destinations,” said Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield, “We are grateful for the government’s

commitment in bettering our tourism offering so the Penguin Parade can be enjoyed for generations to come.”

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said the upgrade would give visitors a chance to get closer to the beach and enjoy the spectacle of the little penguins waddling up the shore each evening.

Once completed, the new boardwalk will create an improved looped walking experience to better connect visitors with nature and provide greater accessibility for all abilities through to the penguin viewing stands.

In addition, there will be greater shared access, improved visitor flow, increased capacity and an even closer view of the little penguins waddling home each evening.

The works will also continue to provide protection to little penguins by use of elevated boardwalks to allow them unlimited movement within the habitat.

Terroir Architects and Simpson Construction are working with the Nature Parks on the Penguin Parade Boardwalks and Viewing Stands Redevelopment project, which is due to be finished by December 2024 in time for the peak summer visitor season.

Nature Parks launch “unique, genuine” RAP

From page 1

“When we first started (the reconciliation journey), most people didn’t think there were any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in Bass Coast,” Dr Munro said.

“The fact that the community is now recognised, people are now not saying ‘you’re kidding’ when I say I’m Aboriginal, that’s an improvement.

“The (First Nations) community has also grown quite significantly. There’s 600 plus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community now.

“We’re still reasonably hidden, but we’re getting there. Slow and steady.”

Sharing of knowledge

Patrice Mahoney OAM said the RAP laid further foundations for the sharing of knowledge between Traditional Owners and First Nations people and Nature Parks.

“Where Nature Parks is saying ‘we want to learn and we want to listen’, Aboriginal people are saying ‘we want to learn and listen off you’, Patrice said.

“We’d love to talk to your scientists and

your researchers, to know what you’ve learned about seals or penguins or bush stone curlews.

“We want to revitalise our own language and cultures and ways of doing, and sometimes obviously non-Aboriginal people have those answers.”

Patrice said often RAPs can be an “internal document”, but that PINP’s fourth RAP was a “model of going outwards rather than inwards,” an “understanding of reciprocity ... and a circular system”.

Catherine Basterfield said one of the aims of the latest RAP was to make First Nations and Bunurong culture more visible across Nature Parks managed land.

“There’s a lot of truths that we can tell, but there’s a lot of stories that are (Bunurong people’s) stories, and who we share them with and how we share them needs to be really guided and driven by Bunurong,” Ms Basterfield said.

“I look forward to seeing a time that visitors to the island can visually see how important this place is, not just for its environment but for its culture as well.

“We’re not there yet, but we’ll keep working through it.”

Whelan bids farewell after eight years

COUNCIL

After eight years as a Bass Coast Shire councillor, Michael Whelan is officially set to retire.

With elections in October, Cr Whelan attended his final council meeting last month, with council now in caretaker mode.

He said it was time for him to stand aside to make way for the next generation.

“I have done my bit, and I have a strong commitment to passing the baton to the next generation. It is time for some youth,” he said, adding it was for others to judge his legacy.

The former mayor – who was the inaugural chair of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance – said he was proud of the construction of Berninnet, council’s declaration of a climate emergency and “seeing councils across Australia step up to fill the vacuum in climate action disgracefully abandoned by the Federal Government”.

“As well I have sought to highlight the urgency of action to address sea level rise and with Cr Race from Mornington have



Island Ward councillor Michael Whelan is stepping down from the role he has held for eight years, including time as mayor.

started a state-wide approach that we hope will increasingly get state and federal attention.”

Cr Whelan said to be successful in council “you have to be part of the team”.

“It takes five votes to carry a decision.

“I am grateful I got to

work beside some wonderful people in my eight years in a council that was progressive and insightful. We got things done.”

As for retirement, he and his wife Mary plan to “travel, play music and perhaps swing a golf club from time to time”.

Vote 1

BASS COAST SHIRE
ISLAND WARD

MARNIE
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"I want to work for, and deliver quality services and outcomes, for our diverse community"

- I AM PROUDLY AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE, I WILL VOTE FOR POLICY, NOT PARTY.
- PRIORITISE & ADVOCATE FOR COMMUNITY VOICES, TO BE HEARD & ACKNOWLEDGED.
- COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY A MUST.
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- PRIORITISE RECREATION RESERVE, SHOWCASE OUR HISTORY, & WORK ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITY, TO UNITE THE DIRECTION OF OUR ISLAND.
- MAINSTREET'S DEVELOPMENT IS UNPOPULAR AND NOT A PUBLIC PRIORITY.

Authorised by Marnie Chadwick, PO BOX 4076 COWES 3922, marnberm@gmail.com

Island community voices concerns

ISLAND VOICE AGM

Island Voice held its annual AGM last Wednesday in the Anzac Room at the Phillip Island RSL.

President Peter Paul spoke of several concerns for Phillip Island residents and Island Voice members, including: the much-anticipated DAL and town boundaries; the “appalling” number of roadkill; the coastal erosion at Silverleaves; and carparking facilities.

Concerning the Distinctive

Areas and Landscapes (DAL), which will reassess town boundaries on the island, Peter said “we are still whistling in the wind”.

“Our current town boundaries are sacrosanct and should be recognised by the Victorian Parliament.”

Bass Coast was declared a DAL in 2019, aiming to lock in town boundaries, and tighten planning controls to protect significant landscapes.

But the DAL’s final hurdle, the Statement of Planning Policy

(SPP), must first be endorsed, which was expected last year, but was extended to October this year.

However, in August, the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny refused to speculate on specifics of the DAL’s final release, when asked by the Advertiser.

Ms Kilkenny said she understood the project was a priority for the community, but did not want to give a timeframe for when it would be released.

The Island Voice president

also said “much more needs to be done” to address the significant number of roadkill on the island, suggesting lowering speed limits as a possible solution.

Of the Silverleaves erosion crisis, Peter said “we’re losing too much, too quickly”, calling for the State And Federal Governments to find a “permanent solution”.

“Every piecemeal thing we’ve tried on the beach has been washed away,” he said.

“I’m not an oceanographer, but what I am is a concerned citizen,

and I’ll bow to the best of science. They’ve got solutions, what they haven’t got is the funds to do it.”

Island Voice also celebrated its efforts in holding the “wonderful” community Carols night, which last year was attended by around 4000 people.

After the AGM, in the lead up to the council election, Island Voice hosted guest speakers Dean Hurlston of Council Watch and Surf Coast Shire councillor Dr Heather Wellington (see separate article).

“You have a vote; you have a voice”: Council Watch

COUNCIL ELECTION

Island Voice hosted guest speaker Dean Hurlston, President of advocacy group Council Watch, and long-time Surf Coast Shire councillor Dr Heather Wellington at their AGM last week.

The guest speakers discussed a range of systematic failures and bureaucratic processes in local government which many councillors struggle against.

Present in the audience were eight council candidates spread across all three Bass Coast Shire wards, including one sitting council member. Dean Hurlston is an outspoken critic of council behaviour across Victoria, and stressed the need for ratepayers to engage in the democratic process and seriously consider who they vote for in the upcoming council elections.

Mr Hurlston said a “good proportion” of council mismanagement was due to residents’ lack of interest in council elections, and who they elect to represent them.

“When you elect someone, you surrender your control to that person representing you. That’s democracy,” Mr Hurlston said.

“You have a vote; you have a voice.”

Mr Hurlston criticised the “system and culture” of councils, citing guarded “self-prescriptive standards” as a significant con-

tributing factor causing poor council management.

“Lobbying the administration, you’re wasting your time, you’re talking to the wrong people,” Mr Hurlston said.

“You don’t go to the cashier at McDonald’s and say ‘I want to teach you how to make a better burger’.

“We have to actually get to the policy makers at the table, which are the councillors. We need more people like Heather.”

Bureaucratic roadblocks

Dr Heather Wellington was a councillor for the Surf Coast Shire for 16 years (retiring at the end of this term), and the former lawyer and doctor said being a councillor was “the most difficult job I’ve ever done in my life”.

Dr Wellington discussed a number of bureaucratic roadblocks she came up against when trying to perform her role as councillor, saying it was important in the role to understand how big organisations are professionally managed.

“Of your councillors you need at least some that have managed or been part of a governance group or big organisation,” Dr Wellington said.

“If I were having a forum of councillor candidates, I would say to them: ‘what would you be



Community body Island Voice hosted Council Watch CEO Dean Hurlston and Surf Coast Shire councillor Dr Heather Wellington as guest speakers at their AGM last week. From left: Peter Paul, Dean Hurlston, Dr Heather Wellington and Peter McMahon.

looking for in a CEO if you had to appoint one during your term as councillor?”

“You need people who’ve sat on boards, who understand accountability and the questions to ask the CEO.”

Dr Wellington said she saw holding the (council) organisation and CEO to account, in a productive manner, as a significant role for councillors, although this is often difficult due to the lack of information given to councillors.

Dr Wellington said even though she was “a pretty well qualified person”, the lawyer and doctor still found it highly difficult to navigate the “terrible bureaucracy” of the Surf Coast Shire Council.

Speaking of first arriving as

a councillor, Dr Wellington said she felt “intimidated”.

“You suddenly think, ‘Oh, I’ve never thought about a planning decision’. And here are all these officers with this skill set and knowledge, and they become your crutch, really. And you become captive.”

“And in my view, (as a councillor) you are groomed to be captive.”

Transparency

Dr Wellington said she spent “almost all” of her councillor allowance on legal fees fighting for access to information necessary to inform her decisions as a councillor, and often had to file Freedom of Information requests.

In terms of differing council approaches to transparency, Dr

Wellington said “at a local level, it depends on the CEO and what they’re prepared to do, to allow people access to and allow councillors access to.”

The Surf Coast Shire councillor said she had seen first-hand the considerable difference when councils are transparent with information.

“I’ve been through some very difficult times, but also now I feel I do get access to everything I need (because) the current administration is really good.

“But you’ll hear councillors across the state at various councils talking about difficulty getting information.

“It’s a real tool, information, and you can’t do your job unless you’ve got access to it.”

Mr Hurlston slammed the lack of council transparency across the state, saying the information afforded to councillors is “make or break”.

“As a councillor, it is vital you get accurate information, and that you can question that information.

“The entire bureaucracy is geared towards not letting you.

“So you need people on council who actually know the game that’s being played, (who) know what their role is and what their collective power is.”

www.councilwatch.com.au/

Bass Coast Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election will be held for Bass Coast Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Old Post Office
74 McBride Avenue
Wonthaggi

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don’t vote and don’t have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

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Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST





Preps dressed as different types of clouds, sang about where water comes from. More photos at pisra.com.au/education



Year 3 students Makayla Keene and Savannah James wait for their hair to set during the Year 3 number about how important water is to life.



Year 4 students Leith Cameron as 'Frank Green' and Sage van der Walt as 'Splash' lead the ensemble.

Triumphant junior production

EDUCATION

Newhaven College's Junior School students dazzled on stage in their performance of Just a Drip.

The talented duo of Nina and David Prideaux directed the show and were responsible for writing the scripts and lyrics, composing the music and choreographing the performances. Every one of the 231 students, from Prep to Year 4, participated, turning the production into a professional and polished event.

The College said the Junior School production offers every child an opportunity to perform in front of an audience, a skill many students view as a natural part of their

school experience. From Junior School assemblies and choir performances to daily classroom activities, students are consistently exposed to public speaking and performance, building their confidence and skills in these areas.

Just a Drip is a heartwarming tale of Splash, played by Sage van der Walt, a very melodious bottle of water. She travels from the supermarket refrigerator where she never gets picked for parties, to snow-capped mountains, to the sewers under the city. Splash discovers every drop of water has a song, and she begins to learn about the importance of water more than she ever thought possible. Splash travels with

Frank Green, played by Leith Cameron, through a chorus of quirky lands, all relying on the special qualities of water. Along her journey, Splash learns about the importance of water.

Staff, students and parents worked diligently to bring the final production to life. Nina, David, and many Junior School staff worked tirelessly to make the show a reality. Students dedicated their lunchtimes and after-school hours to rehearsing, memorising lines and perfecting songs. Junior School parents generously volunteered their time to organise props and costumes. Those who attended the performance were truly impressed by



The Narrators (from left): Charli Pope, Ethan Moyle, Ray Johns, Flynn Chaston, Rose Deery, Chloe Shapardon, Sophie Blake, Indigo Northover, Olivia Clark, Francis Werner and Evelyn McCabe.

the exceptional acting and singing skills the students displayed on stage.

The sets were created by Tony Kellett and students from the VET Building and Construction

class. The sets certainly supported the professional image of the show. The live music, performed by College staff, completed the overall performance with style.

"To see the students perform with energy, enjoyment and confidence is a credit to everyone involved," said Head of Junior School, Cath Huther.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the talented duo of Nina and David Prideaux, dedicated teachers who have contributed enormously to this major production, by directing Just a Drip, writing the scripts and lyrics, composing the music and choreographing the performances.

"The College would also like to thank the wonderful band of parents who have worked tirelessly on costumes, labelling, props, sets, painting, make up and many other things required to stage a performance like this."

A bright educational journey

EDUCATION

This term, Newhaven College was delighted to welcome Prep students enrolled for 2025 into the Pre-Prep Transition Program. As part of this initiative, the young learners participated in weekly library sessions designed to introduce them to the world of books and the school environment.

The library sessions provided students with the opportunity to enjoy story time with the College's Head of Junior School, Cath Huther, and Principal, Tony Corr, who both thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the future preps and their families.

Such learning experiences help the future preps to become familiar with their new school surroundings, and to build connections with peers. Equally important, the transition program serves as a valuable opportunity for parents to connect with other families embarking on the prep journey next year.

Head of Junior School, Cath Huther, is passionate about the importance of welcoming future preps through the school's transition program.

"Our Pre-Prep Transition Program is more than just an introduction to school – it's the beginning of an educational journey. We are thrilled to see our



Principal Tony Corr read everyone's favourite book *Hairy MacLary* to future Prep students during the Newhaven College Pre-Prep Transition Program library session.

future preps take these first steps with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that they are supported by a strong community of educators, peers and families," she said.

"We look forward to witnessing the many milestones they will achieve as they transition, grow and become valued members of our Newhaven College community."

There are currently no vacancies for the Prep 2025 intake at the College. However, places are available for 2026 and beyond. Interested families are invited to come along on a College Tour on Wednesday October 16.

A special Prep Information Session will be held prior to the tour, particularly tailored for 2026, 2027 and 2028 prospective enrolments.

This information session is designed to provide families with a comprehensive overview of the programs offered in the Junior School. The event will feature an informative presentation, followed by a guided tour of the school.

Go to 'Book a Tour' on the Newhaven College website or contact the Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au.

/ Sponsored article /



Come along to our

College Tour

WEDNESDAY 16 OCT 2024

Prep Info Session - 9.00am

If you're contemplating where to send your child to school in 2026 or beyond, come along to our special information morning. Learn about our unique educational programs and gain a deeper understanding of the wonderful opportunities offered to students at Newhaven College. This will be covered in a tailored presentation specifically designed for future Prep enrolments.

Whole School Tour - 9.30am

Join us for an opportunity to meet our principal and let our students guide you on a tour of our incredible school, where excellence in education truly comes to life.

To find out more contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



NEWHAVEN
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SENIORS FESTIVAL 2024

Advertising Feature

Explore.
Engage.
Evolve.

Celebrate our Seniors this month

Throughout October, the 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival is celebrating our older residents, and Bass Coast has some great events on offer. The theme for this year's festival is "Explore. Engage. Evolve" and the local program provides plenty of opportunities to do just that. A highlight of the month is a special performance by the Victorian Concert Orchestra at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 20 at 2pm. As part of Bass Coast Shire Council's support of the festival, tickets are an

affordable \$15. Activities included in this year's festival include fitness classes, gardening, photography, music, writing, history, croquet come and try day and events hosted at the local libraries. Events are located all across the shire, and are listed in the Bass Coast Seniors Festival brochure, available on the council website. On the island, events include Walk for Wellness with Phillip Island Camera Club (October 4) and Open Day at the Phillip Island Men's Shed

(October 8). A highlight of the month is the free Johnny Cash and June Carter Show at Berninnet on October 16, which is now fully booked out. The 2024 Festival is community driven and includes free and low-cost events. Over 16 local events have been curated by community groups, keen to help others "explore, engage and evolve". You can find more details and download the full program at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/healthy-ageing



Walking groups, fitness classes, gardening, photography, music, writing, history and croquet are just some of the activities on offer in Bass Coast during this October's Seniors Festival.



Our Melaleuca Aged Care residents (and kids) are having a ball interacting and playing together each week. The squeals of delight bring joy and laughter to our home and it's so lovely to see our residents light up when our special friends come to visit.



1 Watchorn Rd, Cowes | Ph: 03 5952 3266

Grandview Family Clinic is being supported by the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC), internationally recognised as a leader in sexual health care and research. Our staff have received in-depth training and education from MSHC and we have adopted their policies and guidelines so we can best support our patients.

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- To book your Sexual Health appointment call us on (03) 5951 1860 or book online via our website: www.familydoctor.com.au/grandviewfamilyclinic

3 Grandview Grove, Cowes, Vic 3922
t: 03 5951 1860 f: 08 7560 5102
w: www.familydoctor.com.au



FREE EVENTS for Seniors Month, for people aged 60+

- Friday 11 October 2:15pm Chair-Based Exercise
Friday 18 October 2:00pm Pickleball
Tuesday 22 October 9:15am Intro to Strength Based Training
Wednesday 30 October 2:15pm Zumba Gold

Bookings are essential, please call us on 5952 2811.

Phillip Island Leisure Centre
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Victorian Seniors Festival 2024

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In the heart of Cowes, Banfields Aged Care is a shining example of home-style accommodation, offering a warm and welcoming environment for its residents.



Additional amenities at Banfields include a cinema, hair and beauty salon, private dining room, and beautifully landscaped courtyards and gardens.

Family-run with a heartfelt legacy

Nestled in the heart of Cowes, Banfields Aged Care stands as a shining example of home-style accommodation, offering a warm and welcoming environment for those entering the later stages of life. Owned and operated by the Australian Aged Care Group (AACG), this single-level facility provides a comforting, community-oriented setting where residents can enjoy a peaceful, fulfilling lifestyle.

AACG has built a legacy of care, rooted in the Matthies family's experience in the aged care sector, which dates back to the 1960s. With homes in Kew, Mount Eliza, and Cowes, AACG has become known for delivering high-quality care while fostering a sense of belonging and community.

At Banfields, this tradition is upheld under the new management of Leanne l'Anson, a Bass Coast local, well-known and beloved by the Phillip Island community. Her leadership, combined with the care ethos of the Matthies family, ensures that Banfields continues to operate as a family-run home that places people at the heart of everything it does.

Banfields Aged Care offers residents a range of tailored care options. Whether you're looking for a short-term respite stay or seeking permanent accommodation, Banfields provides all levels of support, including a specialised Memory Support Unit for those with dementia. The home's person-centred approach ensures that every resi-

dent receives a customised care plan, developed by a dedicated team of registered nurses and professional care staff. With an emphasis on independence, dignity, and overall wellbeing, Banfields supports its residents in maintaining their quality of life, regardless of their care needs.

The layout of the home has been thoughtfully designed to promote a sense of connection and community. Banfields consists of several separate wings, all linked by spacious lounge, sitting, and dining areas. These communal spaces provide opportunities for residents to engage with each other, participate in activities, or simply relax in a comfortable, home-like setting. Additional amenities, including a cinema, hair and beauty salon,

private dining room, and beautifully landscaped courtyards and gardens, further enhance the residents' experience, offering both relaxation and recreation within easy reach.

Banfields is more than just a place to live – it's a community. The team at Banfields understands that for many, choosing an aged care home is about finding comfort and familiarity. The staff work hard to create a family-like atmosphere where residents feel at ease and part of something bigger. Daily activities encourage social engagement and help build meaningful connections between residents and staff. The warm, welcoming café is a popular spot for both residents and their families, while the home's gardens pro-

vide a serene backdrop for enjoying quiet moments or spending time with loved ones.

At Banfields, community involvement is encouraged, and new residents and their families are welcomed with open arms, in true island fashion. Whether local to the area or arriving from elsewhere, everyone is embraced as part of the Banfields family. With a compassionate team, a home-like environment, and a commitment to personalised care, Banfields Aged Care offers an exceptional lifestyle where residents can truly feel at home.

For more information and a personal tour, call 03 5951 2500 or email reception@banfields.com.au

www.banfields.com.au

A Warm Welcome Awaits You...

At Banfields Aged Care, we understand that finding the right place to call home in later life is about comfort, familiarity, and being part of a caring community. Now under the trusted management of Leanne l'Anson, a beloved Bass Coast local who returns to continue the tradition of heartfelt care she helped establish, Banfields is once again a warm and welcoming home for all.

As a family-owned residence, we pride ourselves on creating a true sense of belonging, where everyone feels at home and cared for like family.

Nestled in the heart of Cowes, Banfields offers a homely environment where residents are supported by a compassionate, experienced team dedicated to their wellbeing. Our beautiful gardens and cozy spaces provide the perfect backdrop for daily life, whether it's enjoying a peaceful moment or spending time with loved ones.

We are more than just a place to live – we're a community. With shared lounges, a welcoming café, and daily activities, Banfields fosters genuine connections among residents and staff. We believe in the importance of community involvement and love welcoming new residents and families from near and far, embracing them in true island fashion.

Whether you're looking for support with day-to-day care or specialised dementia services, Banfields is a place where you'll feel at home – surrounded by people who care.



Book a Personal Tour Today

Call (03) 5951 2500 or email reception@banfields.com.au

banfields.com.au

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Island HOMIE

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

Advertising Feature

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VIEWING LIVESTOCK TRADING SELLING



Property styling can give you an advantage

First impressions are everything and in an increasingly tough real estate market, Pint Size Property Styling can help your home stand out from your competitors. We know what it takes to create an emotional connection for potential buyers which translates to homes that sell more quickly and for higher prices. **Contact Steph on 0412 031 035**

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PROPERTY STYLING

JD02429AA



A fresh start for home buyers this Spring

As The Block celebrates its 20th season, we have witnessed not just stunning property transformations but also a remarkable testament to the potential of the current real estate market for permanent residential buyers on Phillip Island.

This season's standout contestants, Maddy and Charlotte, embody the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that can inspire prospective homeowners to seize unique opportunities.

As we approach the traditional spring selling season, the market is primed for buyers ready to explore a variety of properties that showcase modern designs and thoughtful renovations. Maddy and Charlotte's House 1 exemplifies how creativity and meticulous planning can lead to exceptional homes, highlighting the exciting options available to buyers.

Spring offers a fresh start, making it an ideal time for those looking to invest in their future through homeownership.

With an influx of listings expected, buyers will find

a wealth of opportunities that cater to diverse tastes and lifestyles. This season not only promises beautiful properties but also the emotional and financial rewards of securing a place that truly feels like home.

As The Block continues to inspire with its blend of design excellence and entrepreneurial flair, the underlying message is clear: now is the time for permanent residential buyers to engage with the market.

Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or looking to upgrade, the spring selling season presents a rare chance to find a property that resonates with your vision.

If you're considering your options or have questions about navigating this vibrant market, reach out to OBrien Real Estate. Our team is here to provide expert guidance and help you explore the possibilities that await.

Call us today at 03 5952 5100 to discuss your selling and buying needs. Your dream home is just around the corner!



Maddy and Charlotte from The Block exemplifies how creativity and meticulous planning can lead to exceptional homes, highlighting the exciting options available to buyers.

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21 Waikiki Cres, Smith Beach
\$1,150,000

Just listed

64 Bayview Dr, Cowes
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Just sold

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Just listed

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Just sold

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Join the Great Witch Hunt

Cruising into Rhyll

COMMUNITY

Witches are popping up around the island and across Bass Coast this month, in the lead up to Halloween.

The Great Witch Hunt will see 64 witches on display in businesses right across the shire, and tracking them down could see you take home some great prizes.

Each witch has a sign with a unique number that participants must hunt for and fill in on their Ticket To Hunt to then go in the draw to win prizes.

There is a range of great prizes on offer this year from local businesses including family accommodation for two nights at the Kilcunda Oceanview Holiday Park.

This event is hosted annually by the Grantville Business and Community Association (GBCA) and is not-for-profit and run by volunteers, with any funds raised being 100 per cent returned back into the community.

The aim of the event is to showcase local businesses and encourage participants to explore the Bass Coast and support the great range of businesses, both large and small, in our region.

“Not only does this event showcase local businesses, but is great for all ages,” event organiser and GBCA Vice-President Neroli Heffer said.

“It’s always exciting to see what the witches get up to each year as we have some very creative business owners who have lots of fun moving the witches around their business.”

Tickets are just \$5 and can be purchased online or from Visitor Information Centres in Inverloch and Newhaven, Grantville Transaction Centre, at



The Great Witch Hunt is on again this October, with over 60 witches to find across Bass Coast, and great prizes to be won.

Artspace in Wonthaggi or from Maru Koala and Animal Park in Grantville.

Once you have your ticket, start hunting and then return your completed ticket to any of the outlets listed above or email it back to greatwitchhunt@gmail.com.

Get all the latest updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheGreatWitch-Hunt

Tickets at: www.visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt

CRUISE SHIP SEASON

Rhyll is once again set to become a popular destination for cruise ships in the coming months with the first ship arriving on the weekend.

The cruise ship season is a busy time for the enthusiastic members of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo and the Rhyll Community Association who greet the passengers as they disembark at the Rhyll pier.

The first ship, the Diamond Princess, arrived on Saturday, with 700 passengers joining official tours, while others opted to explore on their own, or book alternative tours.

Shuttle buses ran between Rhyll and Cowes all day.

There was a slight hiccup when a tender transporting passengers from the ship to the wharf got stuck on the mud at Rhyll.

This echoed an incident in January, when the tender boat from the cruise ship Noordam ran aground on a sandbank off Rhyll.

Rotary members say, with its picturesque surroundings and charming atmosphere, Rhyll offers a unique experience for travellers looking to explore the beauty of our Bass Coast region.

Cruise ships have in-



Rotary volunteer Rhonda Boyd welcomes cruise ship passengers at Rhyll pier. The first cruise ship of the 2024/25 season arrived on September 29.

cluded Rhyll in their itineraries since 2016, bringing thousands of tourists to the island each year. Cruise ships drop anchor in Western Port, and ferry passengers into the Rhyll pier to either join a tour or explore the island at their own pace.

The Rotary Club, known for its community service, has been playing a key role in greeting cruise ships for the past eight years.

When passengers arrive at the Rhyll pier they are always greeted with live music (including by members of the Rotary Club). Volunteers are on hand to provide information about the island, its attractions, and any events or activities taking

place during their visit.

“The influx of cruise ships into Rhyll has also had a positive impact on the local economy, with businesses on the island benefitting from the increased tourism,” said a spokesperson for the two groups.

“From souvenir shops to restaurants, many local businesses have seen a boost in sales and revenue as a result of the cruise ship visits.

“Overall, the arrival of cruise ships in Rhyll has brought newfound attention to Phillip Island. With its natural beauty and welcoming community, Rhyll is sure to continue attracting cruise ships from far and wide in the years to come.”

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The cruise season begins

The 2024/25 Cruise Ship season is underway, with the first ship – the Diamond Princess – arriving in Western Port on September 29.

The visit was the first of eight cruise ship arrivals scheduled between September 2024 and February 2025.

The Diamond Princess, which carries 2670 passengers and 1100 crew, is the biggest cruise ship to visit Phillip Island, and is scheduled to visit four times this season.

Most ships arrive in the early morning, with passengers able to spend a full day exploring the unique attractions Phillip

Island has on offer. The exception is the Silver Nova visit in November, which arrives at 4pm and departs at 11pm in the evening – still giving interested passengers time to catch the penguins.

Schedule:

October 20	Diamond Princess
November 10	Diamond Princess
November 26	Silver Nova
December 1	Diamond Princess
December 8	Coral Adventurer
January 19	Regatta
February 11	Seabourn Quest

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Phillip Island NATURE PARKS



Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman MP, awarded Abbey McEwen and Kat Gustafson with the People's Choice Award at the IGNITE! Youth Arts Fest. From left: Abbey McEwen, Jordan Crugnale MP, Kat Gustafson, and Natalie Suleyman MP.



Natalie Suleyman MP and Jordan Crugnale MP were also presented with a copy of the 'Skribble' zine - made by students from the Bass Coast College San Remo Campus. From left: Jordan Crugnale MP, Quinn Oxley, Natalie Suleyman MP, Angel Partington, Allison Piper and Airlie Minter.

Youth Arts Fest celebrates talent

ARTS

Last week the Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman MP, visited Berninnet to award the People's Choice Awards at the IGNITE! Youth Arts Fest.

However, alongside the celebrations, some serious questions were raised about what future professional pathways exist for talented local youth.

Two People's Choice awards were presented to young up-and-coming artists from the Bass Coast Region, Abby McEwen and Kat Gustafson.

All artists featured in the exhibition were aged 12 to 25 and live, work, or study in the Bass Coast Region, with the exhibition receiving over 50 artwork submissions.

Ms Suleyman MP lauded the efforts of the young artists, saying "each piece tells a story and I think that's really special."

"It's fantastic ... to be able to visit and meet young people who provide so much inspiration, and through opportunities like this event we're able to see and showcase such beautiful, creative artwork," the Minister said.

The curation, along with showcasing youth artwork, also provided several Year 12 students from Bass Coast College with the opportunity to get hands-on experience curating an art exhibition.

Local member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale MP was also present, and addressing the crowd of young artists, said "our job is to realise your aspirations and your pathways, and acknowledge you also as not just leaders

of tomorrow, you're leaders of today".

Minister Suleyman and Jordan were also presented with a copy of the 'Skribble' zine - made by students from the Bass Coast College San Remo Campus: Angel Partington, Airlie Minter, Allison Piper and Quinn Oxley.

"It's really important for us, in particular for young people to be able to receive help and build those relationships with one another and expand their networks," Minister Suleyman said.

"No pathways for kids"

Senior Art teacher at Bass Coast College, Malcolm Beasley, said while the IGNITE! Youth Arts Fest was an opportunity for young artists to display their talented works, there remains a serious lack of opportunities for young people in Bass Coast.

Mr Beasley highlighted the lack of in-person TAFE in Bass Coast, saying when young artists leave school, they are left with no viable local options to further their skill in a professional environment.

"I train these young people here in the Certificate 3 in Visual Arts, and we do the Certificate 3 in Creative Digital Media as well as Arts," Mr Beasley said.

"One of the things that's extraordinarily difficult for us is that there's no pathways for kids."

"If they want to extend their arts training here (after leaving school), because they want to stay here, they have family here, there isn't any opportunity for them to do it."

Mr Beasley said he had 19-year-old students in his class, who chose to extend their year

twelve studies over a longer period in order to have access to the arts facilities and training.

"Kids have to leave the region to do any further training. That's outrageous," Mr Beasley continued.

"Yes, they could do online training, but young people need exposure to real life, in-person training. Especially young people in the regions, because of course it's an isolating experience."

"We have to protect our young people and give them opportunities here."

Petition for in-person TAFE

In June this year Malcolm Beasley started a petition calling for in-person TAFE classes in Bass Coast.

"Bass Coast Shire has a population of 42,729, surpassing the populations of several other regions in Victoria that have more comprehensive on-campus vocational training facilities," the petition reads.

"The disparity in access to training resources is stark when comparing Bass Coast Shire to regions such as Colac Otway Shire, Mount Alexander Shire, and South Gippsland Shire."

The petition has 816 signatures at the time of writing, and can be found at: change.org/p/bass-coast-shire-needs-a-tafe-now

"I've been told there's a community campaign (for in-person TAFE courses)," Minister Suleyman said.

"I think it's a two-level issue, it's not just a State Government issue."

"But I do want to reiterate our commitment when it comes to education, we are absolutely leaders nationally."



Annual concert certain to delight

MUSIC

The Wonthaggi Citizens' Band Annual Concert is always a great night out for audience and performers alike, and this year's event is no exception!

Preparations are full steam ahead for the concert on Saturday October 12 at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm.

The band is comprised of around 30 brass and percussion players from the Bass Coast, and will perform the majority of the evening's program, including hymns, marches, works written specifically for brass band and toe-tapping favourites that will have you singing along.

"I am so excited to have the band perform to our loyal supporters again. We have a fantastic program of music lined up with plenty of variety and fun to be had. Our annual concerts really are the highlight of our year," said Musical Director Craig Marinus.

The concert will also feature local guest artist, tenor Tom Green, singing both with the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band and with pianist

Dan Moldrich.

Tom is no stranger to local audiences, having performed frequently in Wonthaggi Theatrical Group performances, and recently was part of Castro's Children, a new Australian musical which premiered at Gasworks in Albert Park.

As part of the band's commitment to engage local young people in music, Wonthaggi Youth Brass, conducted by Nick Beale, will open the second half of the concert. Students from the Training Band program at Wonthaggi and Inverloch PS, directed by Natalie Stewart, will also combine to perform on stage for the first time.

Tickets are now available, and selling fast. To purchase, visit www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/event-details/wonthaggi-citizens-band-annual-concert-wonthaggi.

For more information about any of the band's programs, including membership, lessons and performances, contact the band at wonnecitizensband@gmail.com or Secretary Fiona Moldrich on 0407 299 738.

/Sponsored article/

The Block: recap

REALITY TV

Missed The Block last week?

Then you missed the contestants' visit to Island Surfboards, where board shaper and former professional surfer Glyndyn Ringrose oversaw a challenge, where teams painted a surfboard for an art show judged at Berninnet.

It was also hump week last week, with the Channel 9 reality TV show nearly half way through, and "fatigue is really starting to set in".



Glyndyn Ringrose and Scott Cam during The Block challenge at Island Surfboards. More photos at pisra.com.au



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WONTHAGGI CITIZENS' BAND ANNUAL CONCERT

WONTHAGGI CITIZENS' BAND
TOM GREEN | YOUTH BAND

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Berninneit celebrates its first birthday on November 1, with community arts proudly on display, including an exclusive preview of Offshore Theatre's "My Sister Jill".

It's a birthday party

ENTERTAINMENT

Berninneit will celebrate its first birthday on November 1, and there's plenty of celebrations in store for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the celebrations, the cultural centre will showcase a range of community arts for the week.

Kicking off the celebrations it will host local award-winning theatre group Offshore Theatre who are presenting an exclusive preview of a brilliant piece of theatre My Sister Jill recently presented by the Melbourne Theatre Company.

My Sister Jill is Patricia Cornelius' latest play with a semi-autobiographical storyline of Christine who idolises her father and is fascinated by his wartime experiences. The rest of the family do not share these sentiments...

Tickets are available at a subsidised birthday rate of \$15 and guests will receive a complimentary drink at the bar and celebratory nibbles.

Further celebrations are also happening including the creative ASPIR group who will be exhibiting in the community

spaces.

"This is a really exciting celebration for Berninneit and for the residents of Cowes and surrounding areas," said Greg Box, CEO, Bass Coast Shire Council.

"We have had many thousands of people enjoy the shows and cinema here since it began as well as exhibitions, art galleries, community activations and of course the beautiful MYLI library and historical museum.

"We are all really proud of the reviews that have been received and all the great work that everyone has put into activating this space.

"It is great that we can enjoy this first year with one of our local community theatre groups leading the celebrations and amplify the great work that all the artists involved are doing. I am sure this will bring great pride to all involved" he said.

Get your tickets quickly to Offshore Theatre - spaces are limited for this exclusive preview event!

www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/event-details/1st-birthday-celebrations-berninneit



The team from the 2024 Edible Gardens event. Organisers are now looking for candidates for next year's event on February 8 and 9.

Is your garden edible?

EVENTS

Spring is sprung - albeit in fits and starts - and gardeners are starting to pull out flagging winter vegies, feed their emerging fruit trees and recondition their garden beds with compost and other nutrients.

At Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) moves are afoot to recruit candidates for the next Bass Coast Edible Gardens event, to be held on February 8 and 9 next year.

Event coordinators, Sharon Willcox and Maddy Harford want to hear from people who think they might like to open their garden for the 2025 event.

"An important feature of Bass Coast Edible Gardens is diversity," said Sharon.



Is your garden edible? Organisers of Bass Coast Edible Gardens are looking for gardens to be part of the 2025 event next February.

"Edible Garden visitors like to view different types of gardens, size of gardens and approaches to gardening. Our aim is to inspire people to grow their own food and enjoy the financial, health, social and (especially) taste benefits!"

Organisers are aiming for 15 gardens spread across Bass Coast shire, from Phillip Island and the Waterline, to Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Cape Paterson and into the Hinterland of Glen Forbes, Almurta, Glen Alvie, Woolamai and all points in between.

"If you think you might like to participate and open your garden next February, we'd love to hear from you", said Maddy.

"You can email us on bceg@bcal.vic.edu.au and we'd be happy to visit and discuss what is involved. You can also go to our website and hit the Opening Your Garden tab for more information."

www.basscoastediblegardens.com

GIG GUIDE

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06/10 GEOFF ACHISON - 5PM
12/10 FLUX 15. FT HANDSDOWN & LEIGHBOY
EARLY BIRD \$17+BF - 9PM
13/10 MOONSHINE COALITION - 5PM
18/10 JIMI KEMPSEY - 8PM
19/10 LIVE MUSIC TBC - 9PM
20/10 THE LAING BROTHERS - 5PM

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International award-winning artist to judge

ART EXHIBITION

Melbourne based artist, Herman Pekel will be judging all entries and awarding the prizes at the opening night of an exciting new opportunity for artists and collectors: The Landcare Prize, 2024, at the Kernot Community Hall on the Melbourne Cup weekend.

Herman has been prominent in the art scene since first winning the Camberwell Rotary Travel Scholarship. Like many young artists Herman experimented for a time with abstract expressionism, but he is now well known for his award-winning work in oil, watercolour or gouache. Environmental issues are a great concern to Herman and his love of the landscape reflects that in almost everything he paints.

The Landcare Prize supports the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund, a non-profit organisation focusing on conserving biodiversity within Bass Coast.

Expect to see an amazing array of art on display from a high standard of experienced and respected artists. Beginning and emerging artists of all ages are encouraged to enter.

All subjects, mediums, and styles are encouraged, including paintings, sculpture and photography on any theme. Entries close at 4pm Monday October 21. To have an entry form emailed to you contact landcareartprize@gmail.com

Online entry can be made through www.trybooking.com/CUCNL artist entry.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to enter the Landcare Prize with a total prize pool of \$2650 available.

There will be a "dress to impress" Grand Opening Friday November 1, 7pm-9pm.

Entry on the night is \$20 per person with free entry for exhibiting artists.



Melbourne-based artist Herman Pekel is the judge at the 2024 Landcare Prize exhibition. Entries are open until October 21 for artwork - all subjects, mediums and styles.

The art show will be open to the public for a gold coin donation on Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3, 10am - 4pm at the Kernot Community Hall, 1060 Loch-Kernot Road, Kernot.

Those wishing to attend the Champagne Gala Opening Night on Friday November 1 can purchase tickets for \$20 per person through Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/CUDND opening night tickets.

Enquiries phone the event coordinator Janice Orchard on 0419 301 363.

/Sponsored article/



A training session on using the new defibrillator installed at Cape Woolamai is being held at the Wooli Tavern on October 5 at 10am.

Defib session for Cape Woolamai

HEALTH

A new AED defibrillator has been installed outside the Wooli Express store in Cape Woolamai, available to the public 24/7.

The unit was generously donated by the Wonthaggi Rotary Club.

Local paramedic Immogen, along with fellow paramedic Erin, has been running a campaign, contacting businesses and organisations across the island to source and house AEDs (automated external defibrillator).

Immogen said she was very excited to let the community know about the new AED.

"As a local paramedic, I've seen firsthand how crucial this will be in assisting anyone experienc-

ing cardiac arrest in Cape Woolamai and surrounding areas, especially given our geographical location."

She's invited the community to attend a "Call, Push, Shock" session at the Wooli Tavern on October 5 from 10am to 11am to learn how to use an AED and receive tips on CPR.

"We'll also be unveiling the AED at Wooli Express," Immogen said.

"A huge thank you to all the local businesses for their support in making this possible!"

In September, Immogen and Erin worked with The Store in Ventnor, whose owners secured enough funds in just 12 hours through a GoFundMe page to buy the vital lifesaving device.

The Store owner Court-

ney Debono said prior to them fundraising the \$2500 to purchase the defib, there was no 24-hour AED available in Ventnor.

"For every minute a patient doesn't get CPR/defibrillation, their chances of survival fall by 10 per cent," said Courtney.

"If a patient in cardiac arrest receives AED treatment within three minutes, the chance of survival rate is 70 per cent."

"The automatic defib has prompts that talk you through how to use it so you don't need to be on the phone to triple zero at the time."

Cape Woolamai's October 5 event starts at 10am and details are on Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/utwgSxdD8h4YwJbD/?mibextid=9l3rBW



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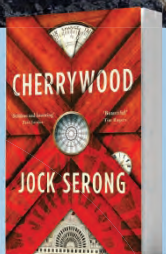
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ABOUT JOCK SERONG: Highly acclaimed author of many genre defying books including *Quota* (winner of the 2015 Ned Kelly award for best first fiction) *The Rules of Backyard Cricket* (shortlisted for 2017 Premier's award for fiction and finalist in the 2017 Indie Book Awards Adult Mystery Book of the Year) *On the Java Ridge* (winner of the inaugural UK Staunch Prize) and the widely praised trilogy of historical novels *Preservation*, *The Burning Island* and *The Settlement* set in and around the Furneaux Islands in Bass Strait and south-east Australia. Editor of *Great Ocean Quarterly* and feature stories writer across Australia's surfing media. Jock also enjoys a strong association with Phillip Island, where he first learned to surf at Berry's Beach.

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FIREFIGHTERS

Phillip Island Fire Brigade celebrated their yearly brigade dinner at the Phillip Island RSL on September 20.

The annual dinner is a night where the brigade's volunteer firefighters' achievements and milestones are acknowledged.

"It is a great night for all the volunteer firefighters to see everyone away from the trucks and the gear for a change," said brigade captain Lino Drazzi.

"It was a successful night with

many awards and achievements handed out to our hardworking and dedicated members."

Lino said it had been a big year for the brigade, which attended 150 jobs this calendar year. "The members are constantly training and upskilling to make our Fire Brigade the best it can possibly be."

The night was made more successful by having Jacob Fry as the MC for the event.

"Jacob shared his story with us after a serious motor vehicle accident here on Phillip Island

15 years ago, at which the Phillip Island Fire Brigade supported other emergency agencies," Lino said.

"Jacob shared with us the importance of giving blood and the fact that he is having another Blood Drive in Ringwood on October 11."

Several members of the brigade are now joining Jacob on the blood drive. Anyone else wanting to take part can book in at: my.donateblood.com.au/app/myteam/booking_claim/ref_no_240920-044198



Kyle Murdoch with Anita Reed, who won the award named after Kyle's grandfather Artie, and brigade captain Lino Drazzi.



Jacob Fry (third from left) was MC for the night, seen here with his family: Paul Fry, Sharnee Fry and Linda Fry, and Phillip Island Fire Brigade's Rhyce Davis and Lino Drazzi. Several brigade members have signed up to join Jacob's annual Blood Drive on October 11. More photos at pisra.com.au



Paul Hayes receives his 25 year service medal from Commander Phil Rogan (left) and Captain Lino Drazzi.



Scott Hamilton is presented with his 35-year life membership medal by Commander Phil Rogan (left) and Captain Lino Drazzi.

Awards

Congratulations to all the fire brigade members on their awards:

Five-year service certificate:

Chris Vagai,
Daniel Mirabito and
Wayne Carter.

Ten-year service medal:

Carol Holden,
Alex Szutta and
Joe Myall.

Twenty-five-year service medal:

Paul Hayes.

Thirty-five-year life membership medal:

Scott Hamilton.

Captain Award:

Wayne Carter.

President award:

John Pitman.

Artie Murdoch Firefighter of the year award:

Anita Reid.

Kipp Stratmann award:

Natalie Stevens.

Turn Out Awards:

John Pitman, Kyle Wood,
Daniel Stevenson,
Wayne Carter,
Terry Quarrell,
Gary Grace,
Daniel Mirabito,
Joe Myall.



Panel (from left): Jamie Longmuire, Joey Thompson, Dr Laura Brearley, Oliver Jobe and Tylah Meunir. Photo: Terry Melvin.

Bass Coast community meets the Rising Tide

ENVIRONMENT

Over seventy people attended the Rising Tide event held on September 25 at the Newhaven College Performing Arts Centre.

The event was organised by School Strike 4 Climate students and included screenings of 'Walanbaa Ngiiyani/Stronger Together', a film about environmental activism and the impacts of coal mining on Gomeri country in New South Wales, and Rising Tide's documentary 'The First Wave' about the 2023 People's Blockade of the world's largest coal port in Newcastle.

Live music was provided by local students Finn Farley and Archie Robson, along with a free community meal, and a panel discussion led by Rising Tide's Jamie Longmuir.

On the panel were: Joey Thompson, environmental activist and School Strike 4 Climate leader; Dr Laura Brearley, PICS committee member, environmental artist and educator; Oliver Jobe, passionate community advocate and Year 10 student at Bass Coast College and Tylah Meunir, a local ecologist

and CFA volunteer.

The panel and Q & A session covered topics such as stopping the mining and export of coal, how to talk to people about climate change and the importance of creativity in environmental action.

Councillors Michael Whelan and David Rooks attended, along with local students and families, and representatives from local environmental groups.

Independent Candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard and Council candidate Matt Morgan were also in the audience.

Rising Tide is organising another People's Blockade in Newcastle from November 19 – 25 November, followed by the Canberra Wave on November 26 – 28. More information at: www.risingtide.org.au/

A local group is attending the Rising Tide events and any interested members of the community are welcome to join them.

If you are interested in going to the 2024 Rising Tide blockade, or are keen to support other locals who are going, then email joey.thompson@schoolstrike4climate.com.

Happy 100th birthday to Lorna

COMMUNITY

"I can't believe I've reached 100. The years have gone by so fast," Lorna Collins remarked with a smile, as she celebrated a milestone few can claim last month.

Born in 1924 at Warley Hospital to early island pioneers Charlotte and Percy McFee, Lorna's early years were spent amid the tranquil beauty of Rhyll, with the McFee family farm becoming the backdrop to an idyllic childhood that Lorna still cherishes.

"It wasn't about luxury, but it was a wonderful life," she reflects. Her father worked tirelessly, growing chicory and milking cows, while her brother Jack helped tend to the two-acre vegetable garden.

"There was always plenty to go around," she recalls fondly, with visitors never leaving empty-handed — always receiving baskets full of fresh produce as they left.

Like many young islanders, Lorna dreamt of the excitement of city life and soon ventured to Melbourne, staying with an aunt in Camberwell. It was there that her life took another significant turn when she reconnected with Trevor Collins, whom she had met during his football-playing days on Phillip Island.

They began their life together, and before long, Lorna found herself raising four children in the busy decades of the 1950s and 60s.

Adventures

Life with Trevor was anything but predictable and his early career as a shark fisherman took the family up and down the east coast of Australia.

Despite the transient nature of their life, Lorna's ability to create a warm, welcoming home wherever they went is a testament to her strength, resilience, and deep



Lorna Collins, who turned 100 this week, is congratulated at her birthday celebrations on the weekend with her four children from left Pam Rothfield, Tony Collins, Judy Lawrence and Geoff Collins.

love for her family.

As the years went by, Lorna and Trevor embraced new adventures, transitioning from the chaos of raising children to a life filled with travel. From their home in Hawthorn, they explored Australia and the rest of the world, enjoying overseas trips and winters spent in sunny Hervey Bay.

Eventually, the pull of Phillip Island brought them both back. Trevor was interred on the island 21 years ago, but Lorna continued to thrive within the community, finding renewed joy in familiar surroundings. Her return to the island, with its familiar faces and vibrant community, brought her a sense of fulfilment that continues to add vitality to her years.

While Lorna's life has been marked by countless adventures and travels, it's the love for her family and her unwavering passion for the Geelong Football

Club that have remained her anchors. Through victories and defeats, these constants have brought her strength and happiness.

Surrounded by her loving family, including many who travelled from interstate, Lorna celebrated her 100th birthday as the matriarch of the descendants of Charlotte and Percy McFee at the Foreshore Restaurant.

Her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends are all proud to call her their own. Lorna's life is not just a testament to her strength and resilience but also to the love she has inspired in everyone who knows her.

As her daughter Judy commented: "How many 100-year-olds are able to trot their stuff on the dancefloor?"

It's just another sign that Lorna's spirit, much like her life, continues to shine brightly.



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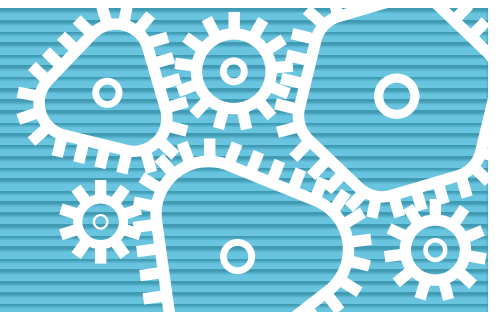
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Jess can!

I just want to do a shout out to Jess Gislingham who for the last footy season has worked tirelessly at the Phillip Island Footy Club collecting cans and bottles as a fundraiser.

Such a great idea and Jess was always a pleasure to see around the footy club on match day!

Keep up the hard work Jess.
Julie McKnight, Cowes

Great water service

Well done Westernport Water! On a recent Friday afternoon, I reported a water leak under the road in front of my house. Within an hour, a crew arrived, investigated and did preliminary works. Monday 8am another crew was there, works completed by 10 am. Fantastic service.

Glenyce Paul, Silverleaves

Councillor hypocrisy?

There must be an election coming on.

The clearest signs of this, apart from advertisements, are the amazing recent turnarounds by many of our Bass Coast councillors.

Last week's paper had an article dealing with the rejection of a planning permit for two two-storey townhouses in Ventnor which received 24 objections.

Cr Rooks opposed the application, saying "... multi dwellings should be discouraged" and "... this kind of development is not what ... the residents want".

Cr Halstead said it was important councillors "push back on developments that 'attack' the character of towns".

Cr Bauer said "the developer had 'gone for broke' by trying to build as much as possible and that the permit needed to be amended to meet local expectations".

These are the same councillors who have supported countless inappropriate developments during their terms.

On a neighbouring block to mine in Church Street, these councillors and their colleagues waved through a development for 10 two-story dwellings with minimal parking, despite about 15 objections from neighbouring residents.

At that time, they had no qualms about ignoring over development, inappropriate development, or the views of residents.

I wonder what made them change their position? Oh, that's right, there is an election coming!

I urge voters to be extremely wary about supporting candidates who now claim to be opposed to inappropriate developments, but whose long track records indicate otherwise.

An application to VCAT successfully addressed most of our concerns, despite Cr Bauer saying at a Council meeting there was no point in Council dealing with the objections as VCAT would just approve it anyway. This proved to be absolutely incorrect.

Denzil Griffiths, Cowes

Editor's note: Cr David Rooks successfully moved an alternative motion to refuse the Ventnor permit referred to in this letter, based on a new planning policy that aims to control growth. Cr Rooks said the Bass Coast housing strategy, adopted

ed earlier this year, classified towns as minimum, incremental or substantial growth areas across the shire for the next 15 years. In Ventnor it was minimal change, where subdivisions and multi dwellings should be discouraged.

Poor toilet plan

Closure of the toilet facility at the north end of Thompson Avenue from September to January is timed for maximum inconvenience to visitors to our lovely town.

Considering school holidays, MotoGP, Cup long-weekend, summer school holidays and Christmas-New Year celebrations, the council could hardly have chosen a more inappropriate period for the repairs that are required.

This is really poor planning.

Ian Gordon, Cowes

In praise of Berninneit

Have the people claiming the new cultural centre doesn't serve the community actually been in there lately? I visited it last week during the holidays and the place was pumping. There was no special performance on, but there were people everywhere. There wasn't an empty seat in the library, people were in the museum, and groups were walking up and down the hall. There was a constant stream of people coming in and out of the building. Clearly the space is providing services for some of the community. This is on top of being a venue where local audiences can enjoy world-class performances, something that certainly didn't occur in the old centre.

It might not be a perfect building, but maybe critics need to reassess their opinion of what the community needs? Because last week, it certainly looked like there were plenty of people who were using, and enjoying, the space.

Madeline Franklin, San Remo

Beach safety

There is a simple solution to the problem of people - especially non-English-speaking beachgoers - "swimming" at unpatrolled and dangerous beaches.

Put retractable, spring-loaded gates at the entrance to these beaches and put the signage in multiple languages on the gates.

If they continue on to these dangerous beaches and enter the water and have not bothered to read the warnings, then their destiny is in their own hands.

Rob Prowd, Cape Woolamai

Lobby Group pressure

This election cycle has the topic of the day being "Transparency and Accountability". Being a candidate for the upcoming council election has been enlightening, especially with the number of pledge/promises/guarantees of action I have been asked to take. Nearly all of the emails are from single issue groups asking for the exclusive promotion of "their agenda". None of these emails were solicited by me but arrived "out of the blue". I can only assume that the other candidates have been similarly "bombarded". This leads me to think about how other candidates deal with such lobbying to "pledge" and how they may behave if elected.

Will they be transparent and accountable for any pledges they felt pressured to make?

Some communication has been asking what actions would I take if elected to council, to address various community needs. Those emails help provide clarity of my position on these needs.

I have also read the Local Government Act 2020 (v 021, 2024). Part 2 describes the roles and powers of a council and includes items around community consultation requirements and acting for the best interests of the community.

It seems to me the ideal councillor is one who prioritises community needs over political agenda and ideology.

In listening to elements of the community, I have so far heard the following:

- Building our community with progress on the sports complex and commonsense capital works
- Preserving our community with a maintenance strategy for our shoreline and road and footpath assets
- Improving our community with a Phillip Island parking strategy and a holiday period Waste Management Plan

If elected to council, I will advocate for the above.

Darrell Silva, Candidate for Island Ward

Join the Rising Tide

Over seventy people attended the Rising Tide event held at the Newhaven College Performing Arts Centre. It was an inspiring, intergenerational gathering.

The meeting included screenings of Rising Tide's documentary 'The First Wave' about the 2023 People's Blockade of the world's largest coal port in Newcastle.

Rising Tide is well on the way to meeting its goal of attracting 10,000 people over 10 days to the People's Blockade in Newcastle November 19 - 25, followed by the Canberra Wave November 26 - 28.

Last week's event inspired a strong groundswell of community support from across Bass Coast. I was part of a number of conversations that began with the question: "Are you going to go the Blockade?" On the strength of seeing the 'The First Wave' film and learning more about Rising Tide, Terry and I have decided to go to the Blockade in November and then on to Canberra. Young people are leading the way and we want to do all we can to support them, when the future of the planet hangs so precariously in the balance.

The courage and creativity that was shown in both the films were also on display in the community that came together. Led by young people, it was a gathering of people who understand the urgency of the ecological challenges we are all facing and who recognise the importance of the strong community connections needed to sustain the work.

In Bass Coast, we are experiencing the direct consequences of rising sea-levels in the coastal erosion of our beaches such as Inverloch, Silverleaves and the Corinella foreshore.

As we arrived home last night, we saw a shearwater next

to the driveway of our home. Right on schedule, this little bird had successfully made it safely back home from its 15,000km flight from the Bering Sea near Alaska. Another reminder of the seasons and cycles of the living world that we need to protect and preserve.

It's enough to make you want to cry and laugh and head up to Newcastle in November.

Laura Brearley, Cape Woolamai

Fundraiser request

I'm seeking your assistance to raise funds for the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the ambulance services that play a vital role in our times of need.

In late December 2023, I was involved in a serious car accident and was airlifted by Ambulance Victoria to The Royal Melbourne Hospital in a critical condition. Thanks to the dedicated doctors and nurses and paramedics, I have made a full recovery over the past six months.

It is a well-known fact that these services urgently need financial assistance.

I am personally making a sizeable donation and would greatly appreciate your generous support to raise additional funds. Below is the address of an approved website to ensure your donation will be tax-deductible. The total amount raised will be published once finalised.

Your support is greatly appreciated and you can donate at:

www.mycause.com.au/p/349480/kruieger-transport-royal-melbourne-hospital?popup=1

www.mycause.com.au/p/349479/kruieger-transport-ambulance-victoria?popup=1

John Krueger, Managing Director and founder - Krueger Transport

Recreation Reserve priority

There has been extensive discussion recently surrounding the urgency of the development of a new Sport and Recreation Reserve, a sentiment I wholeheartedly share.

It has come to my attention the entire 80-acre area (CA79), on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads remains

zoned as 'Farming'. I thought half of it was already rezoned for recreation as it was purchased many years ago, but this is not the case.

The full 80 acres must be rezoned for recreational purposes to prevent any possibility of it being sold off again. Rezoning is vital to preserve this location for present and future generations.

Our community requires assurance about this land designated for recreational, sports, and other community activities. Let's collaborate to have it rezoned and shovel-ready ... so we can proceed with trust and honesty and secure grant funding.

In the late 80s/early 90s, Phillip Island Shire councillors, led by my father Hilton Chadwick, fought ferociously to acquire the land, foreseeing it would be needed for the infrastructure needs of permanent and part time residents in the future.

October 27, 1992, Shire of Phillip Island Councillors approved the purchase of the 80 acres (CA 79) for \$270,000.

February 1994, a Leisure and Recreation plan was organised for CA 79, however it was not formally passed and adopted by the Shire of Phillip Island.

In 1994 amalgamation of the Wonthaggi, Bass and Phillip Island councils was decreed by the Kennett Government. The government appointed commissioners were instructed to sell off assets that were not presently required on Phillip Island and elsewhere.

On July 24, 1995, despite strong objections by the community, who demanded the land be retained for recreational and other needs, CA 79 was sold for \$280,000.

In 2011 when Hilton Chadwick became sick, he wrote to Bass Coast Shire Council and urged it to implement a buyback plan for our municipality.

From that point, former Cr Peter Paul, got behind the repurchase of 40 acres of the CA 79 allotment. It was repurchased for just under \$1 million. The remaining 40 acres (Carnival site) was bought back by council last year.

Marnie Chadwick, Island Ward candidate



A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hawke Landcare Award

Nominations for the 2025 Bob Hawke Landcare Awards are open. For the first time in its history, the award's criteria has been expanded to include groups and organisations to be eligible for the \$30,000 prize. This award celebrates Landcare and recognises excellence in sustainable agriculture. It is dedicated to the former Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC. The winner will receive a \$30,000 prize. Nominations close on December 31. To apply go to bobhawkelandcareaward.com.au

Safe and inclusive

Safe and Inclusive Sport: preventing gender-based violence guide is now available. This innovative guide is supporting gender equity and further action to prevent gender-based violence through community sport. The guide provides strategies to help organisations - including state sporting associations, local councils and women's health services - support local sports clubs, leagues and associations to build and strengthen safe, inclusive and respectful cultures. For more information about the Safe and Inclusive Sport Guide visit sport.vic.gov.au/safe-and-inclusive-sport.



Level 5, 6 and 7 teams together: From left to right Back: Willow, Frankie, Stellah, Rori, Mia and Raven. Middle: Amillia, Isa, Sommer and Kailey. Front: Evie, Juliet, Asha, Ayla, Isla and Saoirse.

Phillip Island shines at BTYC Competition.

GYMNASTICS

The Phillip Island YMCA levels 5, 6 and 7 Gymstar teams took part in the epic BTYC competition last Monday, along with hundreds of other young hopeful gymnasts.

This school holiday classic brings in the highest numbers of

competitors, all enjoying the opportunity to demonstrate their now well polished routines.

The Phillip Island YMCA entered their highest number of competitors this season, with levels 5, 6 and 7 all competing together in the same session, sharing in the nerves and excitement of the day.

In the Level 7 Halos category, our team of four gymnasts once again secured first place overall as a team, with Amillia and Rori coming in first and second in the individual overall competition.

In the Level 6 Halos competition, The Phillip Island Opals were the first placed team, while the Pearl team secured sixth place.

Stellah, in her first competition for the season, put in an amazing performance which was rewarded with third place in the individual overall competition.

In the Level 5 Halos competition, Phillip Island once again successfully secured first place in the team competition, with

Juliet placing third and Ayla placing sixth in the individual overall category.

Our Level 3 three team must also be commended for their efforts in the previous day's competition with all gymnasts awarded an individual gold, silver or bronze medal depending on their overall total score.

Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout

From page 28

"It's also about teaching the kids to be kind to one another, supporting their teammates, and creating a positive atmosphere in and out of the water."

Pat O'Garey, owner of Bang Bang Restaurant and Bar said he was thrilled to be supporting this event.

"Surfing is such a vital part of the island's culture, and we love being part of something that encourages teamwork and fun for everyone involved."

Eddie Maier, 10 years old PIBC Grom said of the last tag team event: "Last time I got an eight-point ride, and it

made me really happy. I hope I can do it again and hopefully I'm on the same team as my dad."

PIBC also offers weekly yoga classes for surfers and mental health and open to the general public, run by local island yogi Dominique Salerno @dominiquesalerno at \$10 for PIBC members and \$15 for non-members.

Sessions are: Mondays and Wednesdays 6pm – 7pm, Thursdays 9.30am – 11am and Fridays 6am – 7am.

For more information on PIBC programs and on how to get involved visit www.pibc.com.au



Back (from left): PIBC President Jake Eisen, Club Captain Ash Easton, Bang Bang owner Pat O'Garey, and (front) PIBC Groms Billy Easton and Eddie Maier.

Euchre results

Ladies winner: Josie Billman – 6 wins.
Men's winner: Darrell Silva – 6 wins.
Encouragement award: Russell Wicking.

Considering the school holidays resulting in multiple absentees, we had a reasonably good turnout for cards.

New players most welcome to come and enjoy an evening of euchre cards every Thursday.

For further information contact Bob Hee 0418 173 388.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK							
WED 2 OCT	THU 3 OCT	FRI 4 OCT	SAT 5 OCT	SUN 6 OCT	MON 7 OCT	TUE 8 OCT	
LOW 5:47 am 1.09 m	HIGH 1:00 am 2.46 m	HIGH 1:51 am 2.63 m	HIGH 2:34 am 2.79 m	HIGH 4:12 am 2.90 m	HIGH 4:46 am 2.97 m	HIGH 5:21 am 3.00 m	
HIGH 12:30 pm 2.46 m	LOW 6:50 am 1.05 m	LOW 7:40 am 1.00 m	LOW 8:21 am 0.97 m	LOW 9:57 am 0.95 m	LOW 10:30 am 0.95 m	LOW 11:02 am 0.95 m	
LOW 6:22 pm 1.09 m	HIGH 1:19 pm 2.52 m	HIGH 1:59 pm 2.58 m	HIGH 2:32 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 4:03 pm 2.66 m	HIGH 4:32 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 5:03 pm 2.69 m	
	LOW 7:11 pm 0.92 m	LOW 7:50 pm 0.77 m	LOW 8:25 pm 0.64 m	LOW 9:57 pm 0.55 m	LOW 10:30 pm 0.49 m	LOW 11:02 pm 0.46 m	

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Scarlett Rennie is one of the local groms competing in this week's Rip Curl GromSearch on Phillip Island, running through until October 5.

Groms descend on the island

SURFING

Two hundred of the top junior surfers from across the country arrive in Victoria this week for the Rip Curl GromSearch Phillip Island presented by Bass Coast Shire Council.

The event runs from October 1 – 5 and features Boys and Girls divisions for Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14 divisions.

A handful of local surfers are lining up to compete against the best in the country, including Scarlett Rennie, Angus Kennedy, Evie Lutz, Tate Russell, Lily Bassed, Sarah Seuren, Rye and Jarrah Cicero and Sam Patterson.

“It’s exciting to be hosting the best 200 junior surfers from around the country in Victoria for the week,” said

Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

“The level of talent across the country is improving year on year and it will be incredible to watch the action over the week.”

As a 10,000 point Marquee event on the Surfing Australia National Rankings, the event is only one of five events of this calibre in the country and

will provide surfers with valuable rankings points in their quest for a spot in the Irukan-djis team heading to the ISA World Junior Surfing Titles.

The event will be webcasted for the final two days of the event via Streamer. Full details including live scores and schedule can be found at www.surfingvic.com/ripcurl-gromsearchphillipisland

Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout

SURFING

Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) is excited to launch the 2024/25 season with the highly anticipated Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout on Saturday, October 12.

Open to all local surfers aged 10 to 80, this event is designed to include everyone in teams, fostering a sense of community and fun.

The event is free for PIBC members, while non-members can participate with a \$20 registration fee. Registration is available via Live Heats – the link is in PIBC’s socials’ bio.

Event Format

- Teams of eight to 10 surfers (mixed teams)
- Teams are allocated by the experienced Captains Committee consisting of former club captains and presidents
- Approximately six teams will compete – 80-minute heats
- Each surfer has eight minutes to catch their best wave
- Captains and power surfers surf twice
- Rules follow the ABB – Boardriders Battle format
- The team with the highest heat tally wins

The winning team will take home a fantastic prize from

Bang Bang with Woolamai Pizza also contributing significantly to ensure the event’s success.

The day will wrap up with a celebration of the season’s aggregate winners at the Phillip Island Winery, providing a chance for all members to come together and celebrate their achievements in this close-knit surfing community.

The club said the tag team event is about more than just surfing – it promotes teamwork among younger members and more experienced surfers, creates lasting memories, and helps raise mental health

awareness. Surfing provides an outlet for groms/adults to manage anxiety, stay active, and develop resilience, and the club is dedicated to fostering an environment where all surfers learn not just skills – but also kindness, teamwork, and self-confidence.

“The Bang Bang Shootout is the perfect way to kick off our season, bringing the community together, fostering competition, and focusing on what makes our club special – our commitment to surfing, mental health, and each other,” Jake Eisen, President of PIBC said.

Continued page 27

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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39 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES



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23 KEAM CRESCENT, SAN REMO



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